Hingham, June 25 1843

My dear friend,

Your letter of May 21 has lain longer by me unanswered than I intended it should, when I received it. We were so glad to get your letter, so happy to hear where you were, & what you had been about, that I intended to write you long before this, & thank you for it. We had been quite in the dark as to your whereabouts, & had spent no little time in asking and answering questions of our neighbors & friends, as to where you were, and when you were coming &c. There are so many people interested in your visits here, that it is quite the subject of conversation when we are expecting any thing of the kind. I was very sorry to hear that you were so unwell at Weymouth, but your labors are so great and you tax yourself so to the utmost, that I am never surprized when I hear of your illness. Flesh and blood will occasionally protest against such excessive labor, & Compensation must come at last. I am glad they had such fine Anti Slavery meetings at New York and Boston, although I was not present at either, still I had very good accounts from Sydney of the N.Y. meeting & from Maria & Mr. Smith of the Boston meetings. The New Hampshire meeting at Concord I think from what I hear must have entirely failed of the intended effect. Events are daily occurring both to arouse and encourage Abolitionists. The financial state of our country, the glaring inconsistences which the pro-slavery party must find themselves in every day, the strike, which the people are making in Ireland in England & many other places for more freedom, all must have an effect upon the emancipation of the slave. Think of the absurdities committed in Boston on the 17. The President insulting us by bringing a slave here at the late day, and more

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when he come professedly to worship at the shrine of freedom. Think of the great Webster being crippled in his speech by a knowledge of the state of things here and at the south. He was evidently crippled, I think, for his speech was a poor affair. How long will these men submit to such things for their own sakes, if they care nothing for the slave. I was amused at your account of the conversation with the New Hampshire clergyman. There are many such, who think it our duty & our only duty, apparently, to supply all their bodily wants and pray for their souls. I think, however, it would do them more good to hold them up to the scorn & contempt of the world. I do not know what Sydney and Mary told you about our minister Mr. Stearns. I think, however, you have probably had a broad statement, and that it should be taken with some limitation. I presume Anna Shaw could tell you that she was entirely satisfied with his course, & she we have always considered a warm abolitionist. I should not however agree with her or with Sydney, in respect to Mr. Stearns's course. I think he has changed & grown conservative very much so upon Anti Slavery since Miss Kelly was here, and upon religion since Mr Parker gave his lectures here. He has grown very charitable, is exceedingly unwilling to condemn, goes round & round slavery without mentioning the term, preaches much upon meekness & other sister virtues; even Mr Baker is now edified with his services. Now I think this is all well enough & proper to be done, but there is another side which there is the greater need for such men as Mr. Stearns to present, & which he used to present formerly & which he is very careful to avoid now. In fact, the great object seems to be now with him & with some others here from whom we might hope better things, to keep the parish together, to please all, & the consequence is they have all grown very religious. We have a great many religious meetings and have all

grown very good. They have endeavoured to banish all disco-
dant notes & as the first step they turned Mr. Smith out
of the Sunday School. They have no abolitionist now in the
S. School but Anna & Mr. James Lincoln. & the school has
never been so popular before. They have very full religious
meetings at Mr. Stearns's, every wednesday. The speakers all talk
very good, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Baker, Mr. Richards &c about coming
to Christ, having the spirit of Christ &c &c. I have never
been but once & found it then so stupid that I shall not
go again I think. Even Thaxter has a large bible Class, Al-
bert Fearing has one or two here, the Baptist are
very zealous, the Episcopalians are getting up a society,
& in fact, to use a much abused expression, every one is
inquiring what shall I do to be saved. In all this I have no
part or lot I feel that it is all sham. I shall depend
upon seeing you in your vacation & we can then read
over the days together, & talk over all matters anto Sha
& others. It is true that we are going to move probably
next spring. We shall regret leaving Hingham, but we
shall be within walking distance of Boston, & that I shall
esteem a great privilege. Mr Smith bought very un-
expectedly to him as well as to every body else. As to the
Fair our young ladies are endeavouring to get up one
here to be held in August. They began with considerable
zeal in the spring, but there are so few to do, & there
will probably be so few to buy, that their prospects are
not very bright. Their idea was that if they could carry
some money to the next fair instead of articles of
clothing, it would be more acceptable & help the cause
more. Maria sends her best love to you & Mr. Smith
would if he were at home, but he is gone to a temper-
ance meeting. I should like to go to New Bedford this sum-
mer we have been talking of going many seasons but have
been prevented how to form. Love to your sister Deborah not much love Selina & Smith

Miss Caroline Weston,

New Bedford.

Mass.

To the care of M. W. Chapman.

Mss. A.5.2.18.63